

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Chair Bernie Erickson, Sherry Steenbock, Jim Haskins, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, John Walschinski, Jerry Polus  
**ABSENT:** Donald Bettine, John Maino, Troy Ness, Joe Witkowski

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\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1193

1. **Call Meeting to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:15 p.m.

2. **Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHERRY STEENBOCK, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of June 21, 2011:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO APPROVE. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Discussion re: Brown County Fair (August 20, 2011).**

Jerry Polus reviewed his checklist with regard to the Fair. He has been in touch with the director of the Pulaski Band and has made arrangements for bus transportation as well as the food vouchers. Polus also stated that he had distributed posters and tickets to all area veterans organizations. He will continue distributing posters to anyone who needs them and has a place to post them and several members of the subcommittee took posters for posting. Polus stated that he would like to invite the master of ceremonies, Tom Mahoney, to the next meeting to go over the agenda and John Walschinski stated that he would contact Mahoney with regard to this. Walschinski also stated that he is still working on getting people for the posting of the colors and will confirm this at the next meeting. Jim Haskins and John Walschinski will pass out the prizes at the ceremony and tee shirts and mugs will be ordered soon. Polus also stated that he will make arrangements with John Maino to advertise on the radio. Polus stressed that it was important for all members to attend next month's meeting as it will be the same week as the Fair and any final details that need to be worked out will have to be done at that time.

Polus asked John Walschinski what the status of the La Z Boy donation was. Walschinski stated that he had spoken with Bruce Gerondale at La Z Boy last week and was assured that La Z Boy was in the process of finalizing their decision, but Walschinski felt the answer was 99% yes. Walschinski passed out a copy of a presentation he will make to La Z Boy upon securing the donation. Walschinski also felt that there were other businesses that could be contacted to make a similar donation, but Walschinski wanted to give La Z Boy the first opportunity because they are very dedicated to supporting veterans.

Erickson asked for clarification on the Veterans Donors Alliance funds being solicited. It was confirmed that the total amount Walschinski is looking for from La Z Boy is \$5,600.00 which would be split between the Veterans Recognition Subcommittee and VFW Post 7534. Erickson questioned whether this large amount would open the possibility of closing the door on the donation but Walschinski did not think this was the case and also stated that even if La Z Boy did not donate the entire amount, he felt they would still donate enough to cover the Fair costs. A discussion continued on how a donation of this nature would be handled and how payments would be made from such a donation. Polus stated that the donation would have to be recorded

as revenue and then checks would have to be requested to pay expenses. Polus suggested that he and Erickson meet with the Internal Auditor to ascertain the best way to handle this. Polus stated that it would most likely be handled the same way as any donation that is made to his office and that is that the donation would be deposited into a donations account and then have an offsetting expense for the amounts needed.

**6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus:**

Polus provided an update on Veterans Court and stated that he had a meeting earlier in the day with the five people on the committee involved in creating the court and further stated that this committee will soon be expanded. Planning and development is moving along under the direction of Judge Kendall Kelley, but there is still a lot of fine tuning to be done as far as the guidelines and identifying the details of the program. It is anticipated that the Veterans Court will be ready to go in mid to late October.

Polus also reported that his department is currently in the process of preparing their budget for 2012 and he felt that his department could maintain the office at the current staffing level of five employees. He felt the budget target he had been given was workable and they will be able to maintain their efforts and services at the current level.

Polus concluded his report with an update on the Veterans Clinic. He attended a news conference earlier in the day at which Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt introduced the contractor for the project, Summit Planning from Milwaukee. This contractor has already built seven veterans clinics as well as a number of other clinics. They had drawings of the clinic and are proposing to break ground in October as there is still some preliminary work that needs to be done. The completion date is anticipated to be spring of 2013.

**7. Report from Committee Members Present (Haskins, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski):**

- Jim Haskins stated that he had recently seen a segment on 60 Minutes that fascinated him with regard to a man in San Diego who started something called Stand Down, an organization that offers temporary housing, employment services, medical services and referral services to homeless vets. More information can be seen at [www.standdown.org](http://www.standdown.org). Haskins went on to say that he had learned there are 9,000 homeless vets from Iraq and Afghanistan and on any given day there are over 250,000 homeless vets. Over half of these homeless vets suffer from mental problems and/or addiction problems.

Polus stated that stand downs have been held in different parts of Wisconsin at different times, but never in Brown County. Jerry did confirm that there are homeless vets in Brown County and further that 10 – 20% of all homeless males are veterans.

- Duane Pierce reported that the Vietnam Vets held their annual ride from Pearly Gates recently and numbers from last year were greatly exceeded with 115 more bikes and 70 more hotrods. He felt that the amount of money raised this year will exceed last year's amount as well.

Pierce also reported on the Hot Rod and Harley show held recently at Vandervest Harley Davidson. They had 30 – 40 bikes and 50 – 60 cars in the show and John Maino emceed a ceremony at which the honored guest was Bobby Lamarche. Pierce shared Bobby's inspiring story and stated that he caught a bullet between his helmet and body armor which resulted in him being paralyzed from the chest down. Bobby was told that he would never walk again, however, through extensive therapy and a positive attitude, Bobby is now walking again.

- Sherry Steenbock reported that three new certificates had been sent out this month.
- John Walschinski reiterated his earlier report with regard to the Veterans Donors Alliance.

- Bernie Erickson reported that Art Lang, the owner of Wisconsin World, had a son serving in Afghanistan who was recently hit by artillery and anyone who wished to send a card could do so.

8. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

9. **Adjourn.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN AT 6:00 P.M. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2011 at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary